

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 ACDA-07 FEAE-00 COME-00 INT-05
NSF-01 DOTE-00 CG-00 CEQ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /101 W
----- 047372 /47

O R 171747Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8910
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, UK, XV
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING;
THIRD MONTHLY PREPARATORY MEETING

REF: STATE 301095

SUMMARY. AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED AT THIRD MONTHLY
PREPARATORY MEETING ON NEED FOR, MUCH LESS DATE OF, SE-
COND EXTENDED PREPARATORY MEETING. IT NOW APPEARS DE-
CISION WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL FIRST EXTENDED PREPARATORY,
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MARCH 14-18. ARGENTINE REP REPEATED FOR CONSULTATIVE
GROUP'S INFORMATION HIS GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT ON AIRBUS
OPERATION IN ANTARCTICA ORIGINALLY MADE AT MENDOZA-SCAR
MEETING. USSR REP RAISED NEW AGENDA ITEM ON IMPROVING
GATHERING AND DISTRIBUTION OF HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL INFOR-
MATION. U.S. REP SUGGESTED GROUP CONSIDER POSSIBILITY

OF ADDING AGENDA ITEM ON ANTARCTIC ACTIVITIES OF COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT CONSULTATIVE PARTIES. UK REP HEAP WILL BE VISITING WASHINGTON JAN. 11 TO DISCUSS ANTARCTICA (SEE PARA 9). END SUMMARY.

L. THIRD MONTHLY PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY HELD AT FCO, DECEMBER 14. AS USUAL IT WAS CHAIRED BY JOHN HEAP, POLAR REGION AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, FCO. PRIOR TO MEETING, HEAP ASKED IF U.S. REP WOULD PRESENT U.S. VIEWS ON DATES FOR AND SUBJECT MATTER OF THE TWO EXTENDED MEETINGS AT OPENING OF AGENDA ITEM 1. HE SAID THAT AS U.S. VIEWS PARALLEL THOSE OF UK, THIS WOULD GET MEETING STARTED ON A HOPEFULLY POSITIVE NOTE. FRENCH REP FOLLOWED U.S. PRESENTATION WITH STRONG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. HOWEVER, WHEN HEAP POLLED DELEGATES, DISTINCT SPLIT WAS REVEALED WITH ONLY JAPANESE JOINING FRENCH IN SUPPORT OF WHAT HAS EMERGED AS US/UK POSITION.

2. ARGENTINE REP WAS MOST VOCAL ADVOCATE OF NOT HOLDING SECOND EXTENDED MEETING UNTIL AFTER UNLOSC. USSR REP REPEATED HIS SUGGESTION FROM EARLIER MEETING THAT NO DECISION BE MADE ON HOLDING SECOND UNTIL AFTER ONE SEES HOW FIRST EXTENDED PROCEEDS. HE SAID MOSCOW FEELS ALL ITEMS ON AGENDA SHOULD BE COVERED IN FIRST MEETING EXCEPT FOR MINERAL RESOURCES, WHICH ARE COVERED BY REPORT OF PARIS MEETING. MOSCOW FEELS THAT SUFFICIENT TIME HAS BEEN SPENT ON MINERAL RESOURCES AND THAT REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE PARIS MEETING BY THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE IS THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP.

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3. HEAP ENDED RATHER LIMP DEBATE OVER THIS QUESTION BY PROPOSING TO SEND LETTER OF INVITATION TO TREATY MEMBERS FOR AN EXTENDED MEETING MARCH 14-18. LETTER WILL STATE THAT ALL AGENDA ITEMS AS WELL AS QUESTION OF NEED FOR A SECOND MEETING WILL BE CONSIDERED. U.S. REP EXPRESSED HOPE HEAP'S LETTER OF INVITATION WOULD INDICATE THAT WHILE ALL AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE CONSIDERED, PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO LIVING RESOURCES QUESTION. HEAP AGREED THAT IN LIGHT OF PARIS REPORT ON MINERAL RESOURCES, THIS WOULD BE THE LOGICAL APPROACH AND THAT HE WILL MAKE REFERENCE TO THIS IN HIS LETTER. TO REASSURE THE ARGENTINE REP, HEAP SAID HE WOULD COUCH SUCH A COMMENT IN TERMS OF INFORMAL GUIDANCE TO AID GOVERNMENTS IN CONSTITUTING THEIR DELEGATIONS AND FOCUSING THEIR PRE-MEETING PREPARATIONS.

4. THERE WAS NO COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS 2(A)(B)(C). ON

AGENDA ITEM 2(D) ARGENTINE REP "REPEATED FOR GROUP'S
BENEFIT" POSITION TAKEN BY ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE AT
MENDOZA-SCAR MEETING ON AIRBUS OPERATION IN ANTARCTICA.
THIS REFERS TO U.S. INITIATIVES AT SEVENTH AND EIGHTH
CONSULTATIVES AND REFLECTS CHANGE IN ARGENTINE POSITION
FROM ONE OF OPPOSITION TO ONE OF SUPPORT. ARGENTINE REP
WILL PROVIDE GROUP WITH COPIES OF PRESENTATION WHICH WE
WILL POUCH TO OES.

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5. AGENDA ITEM 2(E). USSR REP ASKED THAT FOLLOWING
ITEM BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA, "IMPROVED PROCEDURES FOR
GATHERING AND DISTRIBUTION OF HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL INFOR-

MATION." USSR REP WAS ASKED FOR AND AGREED TO REQUEST FROM MOSCOW A PAPER OUTLINING SOVIET CONCERNS. IT WAS AGREED TO ADD IT TO AGENDA AS ITEM 2(F).

6. US REP MADE PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL (A). ARGENTINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REP SUGGESTED THAT PREPARATORY GROUP WAS NOT COMPETENT TO DECIDE DEFINITION OF ARTICLE IX OF ANTARCTIC TREATY. U.S. REP REASSURED HIM THAT U.S. WAS SIMPLY SUGGESTING THAT PREPARATORY GROUP CONSIDER INCLUSION OF AGENDA ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION BY NINTH CONSULTATIVE. USSR REP ASKED IF U.S. COULD PROVIDE GROUP WITH PAPER EXPLAINING U.S. CONCERNS OVER THESE ACTIVITIES. U.S. REP DREW ON BACK-GROUND CONTAINED REFTEL TO EXPLAIN WHY WE THINK LIKELIHOOD OF POLISH ASSERTION OF ENTITLEMENT TO ATTEND SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO MERIT STUDY OF QUESTION. U.S. REP ALSO AGREED TO REFER USSR REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT. AGENDA ITEM 2(G) WILL READ, "ANTARCTIC ACTIVITIES OF COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT CONSULTATIVE PARTIES."

7. FYI. FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING, HEAP, USSR REP KOTLIAR, AND U.S. REP DISCUSSED U.S. PROPOSAL IN GREATER DETAIL. IT WAS AGREED THERE IS DEFINITE NEED FOR CLEAR DEFINITION OF ARTICLE IX. HOWEVER, HEAP AND KOTLIAR SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE PREMATURE TO GET INTO SUCH A DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTUAL POLISH APPLICATION. HEAP POINTED OUT THAT QUESTION MIGHT BE RESOLVED QUITE EASILY IF POLAND PROCEEDS WITH APPARENT PLANS TO ESTABLISH LAND-BASED STATION IN ANTARCTICA THIS SEASON. HEAP SAID HE HOPES EVERY DAY THAT HE MIGHT RECEIVE SUCH NOTIFICATION. KOTLIAR WAS OBVIOUSLY SURPRISED BY DISCUSSION AS HE SEEMED TO BE UNAWARE OF POLISH ACTIVITIES. END FYI.

8. AS THERE WAS NO OTHER BUSINESS, MEETING WAS ADJOURNED FOLLOWING DECISION THAT NEXT MONTHLY PREPARATORY WILL BE HELD AT 1500 ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 25.

9. JOHN HEAP WILL BE ACCOMPANYING ONE OF HIS LATIN AMERICA DEPARTMENT COLLEAGUES TO WASHINGTON JANUARY 11. JOE MILLINGTON, UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON, IS ARRANGING HEAP'S SCHEDULE. WE ASSUME HE WILL BE CONTACTING OES TO CONFIRM VISIT ARRANGEMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND FROM HEAP THAT PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSED AGENDA FOR MEETING WILL PARALLEL THAT OF NINTH CON-

SULTATIVE PREPARATORY MEETING. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WISHES TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL NEED TO TABLE COMPREHENSIVE LIVING RESOURCES PAPER AT FIRST EXTENDED PREPARATORY. HE SEES THIS AS BEST WAY TO FULLY FOCUS MEETING ON THIS CRUCIAL TOPIC. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF ACCESSION BY TREATY MEMBERS TO CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH OES. HE HOPES US-UK MIGHT DEVELOP JOINT POSITION ON HOW TO TREAT PURELY MARINE-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY AS FRG IS LIKELY TO ACCEDE TO TREATY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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